

NEWS RELEASE

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City to Go to Stage 2 Drought Warning June 11th

Wichita Falls, Texas- The City of Wichita Falls is asking that citizens and business owners further curtail their water usage beginning June 11th when the City will go from a Stage 1 Drought Watch to a Stage 2 Drought Warning.

The Stage 2 Drought Warning is being called because the combined total of Lake Arrowhead and Lake Kickapoo is nearing 50%. All water customers will receive a letter informing them of the need to call a Stage 2 Drought Warning, a Water Rationing Zone Map and a copy of the Water Restrictions Ordinance. The goal of the effort is to reduce total water usage throughout the City by 15%. In an effort to reach that goal, the following restrictions will be put in place:

- All irrigation (residential and commercial) will be reduced to once a week, Monday through Friday, based on the Water Rationing Zone Map
- No washing vehicles unless at a commercial car wash, dealership, automotive shop or detail shop.
- Fundraising car washes are prohibited.
- Driveways, patios and sidewalks cannot be washed unless an immediate health or safety risk is present

Year round rules and restrictions are still in place and include:

- Absolutely no spray/sprinkler watering from 11:am to 6:pm.
- Soaker hoses, drip irrigation and bubblers can be used anytime
- Hand watering can be done anytime but the hose MUST have an attachment with a shutoff nozzle

The City will enforce the new restrictions 24 hours a day seven days a week utilizing several departments and divisions. The fine for a first offense is \$25.00, second offense up to \$500.00 and a third offense up to \$1000.00. Citizens can assist with adherence to the new restrictions by contacting the Water Restrictions Hotline at 761-7477 if they witness watering taking place that is restricted by City ordinance. Callers DO NOT have to identify themselves. Simply provide an address and city crews can investigate the location. The hotline number is answered Monday through Friday from 8:am to 5:pm. The after-hours and weekend number for reporting violations is 720-5000.

"This is going to take a team effort," said Public Works Director Russell Schreiber. "The water situation is serious and it is imperative that the citizens and City work together to protect and preserve our water supply. We have to conserve the water we have and that will only happen if everyone follows the year round and Stage 2 restrictions we have in place," said Schreiber.

The City will also be following new restrictions and requirements to do their part to conserve water:

- Non-essential use of water by the City will be suspended including street sweeping, flushing mains, jetting sewer lines and fire fighter training

- Parks will reduce unattended irrigation watering to once a week
- Water leaks (raw or potable) will be repaired immediately
- Distribution pressure will be reduced

“This is getting serious,” said Wichita Falls Mayor Glenn Barham. “We have to conserve our water supply, period. If we work together and adhere to all the restrictions, we’ll make it through this challenge but the citizens have to recognize that without sufficient rain our water supply will continue to diminish and the chances of the City having to implement even more severe water restrictions will be very real,” said Barham.

The most efficient way to water is by using a soaker hose, drip irrigation or a bubbler. These watering systems use less water, are not susceptible to wind, can be more accurately directed so plants get watered and not the street, sidewalk or driveway and they do not launch water into the air, much of which evaporates before hitting the ground. Traditional sprinklers waste water through evaporation, over watering, blowing wind and misdirected watering. For complete water conservation tips, watering techniques, water restrictions and details about Stage 1-4 drought plans go to [wichitafallstx.gov](http://wichitafallstx.gov) or call 761-7401.